

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for a client computer to find a network address of a server computer, the method comprising searching for a network address of the server computer using a backup search procedure if the address of the server computer cannot be identified using a primary search procedure.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the server computer is a password server computer having a public key and the primary or backup search procedures comprise using the public key to search for the address of the server computer.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the primary procedure includes searching a local storage of the client computer system.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein the backup search procedure includes: searching a configuration record of the client computer system for the network address of the server computer.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein the server computer is a password server computer having a public key and the local storage of the client and the configuration record are searched using the public key.

6. The method of claim 3 wherein the backup search procedure comprises the step of performing a broadcast procedure over the network in order to determine the network address of the computer server.
7. The method of claim 3 wherein the backup search procedure comprises the step of using an authentication record to determine the network address of the server computer.
8. The method of claim 3 wherein the backup search procedure comprises the step of determining whether the server computer is running on the same CPU as the client computer in order to determine the network address of the server computer.
9. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of determining whether the server computer is running on the same CPU as the client computer comprises using a loop back address of the server computer.
10. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of determining whether the server computer is running on a CPU of the client computer comprises sending out an inter process communication to the CPU.
11. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of establishing a connection with the server computer with the network address found.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of authenticating the server computer after the connection has been established.
13. The method of claim 11 wherein the server computer is a password server computer.
14. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of populating a local storage of the client computer with a list of network addresses for server computers after the connection has been established.
15. The method of claim 14 wherein the server computer is a password server computer.
16. The method of claim 1 wherein the primary and backup search procedures are performed in parallel.
17. A system for locating a network address of a server computer, the system comprising a client computer configured to search for a network address of the server computer using a backup search procedure if the address of the server computer cannot be identified using a primary search procedure.
18. The system of claim 17 wherein the server computer is a password server computer having a public key and the client computer is configured to search for the address of the password server computer using the public key.

19. The system of claim 17 wherein the primary search procedure includes searching a local storage of the client computer.
20. The system of claim 19 wherein the backup search procedure includes searching a configuration record of the client computer for the network address.
21. The system of claim 20 wherein the server computer is a password server computer having a public key and the local storage and configuration record of the client computer are searched using the public key to find the network address.
22. The system of claim 19 wherein the client computer is configured to perform a broadcast procedure over the network in order to determine the network address of the server computer as the backup search procedure.
23. The system of claim 19 wherein the client computer is configured to search an authentication record of the server computer for the network address as the backup search procedure.
24. The system of claim 19 wherein the client computer is configured to determine whether the server computer is running on a same CPU as the client computer in order to determine the network address as the backup search procedure.

25. The system of claim 24 wherein the client computer is configured to determine whether the server computer is running on the same CPU as the client computer by using a loop back address as the address of the server computer.

26. The system of claim 24 wherein the client computer is configured to determine whether the server computer is running on the same CPU as the client computer by sending out an inter process communication to the CPU of the client computer.

27. The system of claim 17 wherein the client computer is configured to perform the primary and backup search procedures in parallel.

28. A computer-readable medium containing a program with instructions that execute the following procedure:

searching for a network address of a server computer using a backup search procedure if the address of the server computer cannot be identified using a primary search procedure.

29. The computer-readable medium of claim 28 wherein the server computer is a password server computer having a public key and the primary or backup search procedures comprise using the public key to search for the address of the server computer.

30. The computer-readable medium of claim 28 wherein the primary search procedure includes searching a local storage of the client computer for the network address of the server computer.

31. The computer-readable medium of claim 30 wherein the backup search procedure includes searching a configuration record of the client computer for the network address of the server computer

32. The computer-readable medium of claim 31 wherein the server computer is a password server computer having a public key and the local storage and the configuration record of the client computer are searched using the public key.

33. The computer-readable medium of claim 30 further comprising instructions for performing a broadcast procedure over the network as the backup search procedure in order to determine the network address of the computer server.

34. The computer-readable medium of claim 30 further comprising instructions for using an authentication record to determine the network address of the server computer as the backup search procedure.

35. The computer-readable medium of claim 30 further comprising instructions for determining whether the server computer is running on the same CPU as the client computer as the backup search procedure in order to determine the network address of the server computer.

36. The computer-readable medium of claim 35 wherein the instructions for determining whether the server computer is running on a CPU of the client computer comprise instructions for using a loop back address as the address of the server computer.

37. The computer-readable medium of claim 36 wherein the instructions for determining whether the server computer is running on a CPU of the client computer includes instructions for sending out an inter process communication to the CPU.

38. The computer-readable medium of claim 28 further comprising instructions for establishing a connection with the server computer using the network address.

39. The computer-readable medium of claim 38 further comprising instructions for authenticating the server computer after the connection has been established.

40. The computer-readable medium of claim 38 wherein the server computer is a password server computer.

41. The computer-readable medium of claim 38 further comprising instructions for populating a local storage of the client computer with a list of network addresses for server computers after the connection has been established.

42. The computer-readable medium of claim 41 wherein the server computer is a password server computer.

43. The computer-readable medium of claim 28 wherein the primary and backup search procedures are performed in parallel.

44. A method of a client computer to locate a network address of a server computer on a computer network, the method comprising the following steps:

- searching for the address of the server computer in a local system storage of the client computer; and
- performing a backup search procedure if the address is not found in the local system storage.

45. The method of claim 44 wherein the backup search procedure is selected from the group of search procedures consisting of:

- broadcasting a message over the network to identify the address of the server computer;
- searching an authentication record for the address of the server computer;
- using a loop back address to connect to the server computer;
- using a inter process communication to determine whether the server computer is running on a same CPU as the client computer in order to determine the network address; and

searching a configuration record of the client computer for the address
of the server computer.

46. The method of claim 45 wherein the server computer is a password server computer having a public key and the public key is used to search for the network address.

47. The method of claim 45 wherein the backup search procedure is performed in parallel with searching the local system storage of the client.

48. A system for finding a network address, the system comprising:
server means having a network address; and
client means for searching for the network address of the server means by searching for the address of the server means in a local system storage of the client means, and using a backup search procedure to identify the address of the server means if the address is not found in the local system storage.

49. The system of claim 48 wherein the client means is configured to search for the network address as the backup search procedure by performing at least one of the following instructions:

broadcast a message over the network to find the address of the server means;

search an authentication record for the address of the server means;

use a loop back address to connect to the server means;

use a inter process communication to determine whether the server means is running on a same CPU as the client means in order to determine the network address; and

search a configuration record of the client means for the address of the server means.

50. The system of claim 49 wherein the server means is a password server computer having a public key and the public key is used to search for the network address.

51. The system of claim 49 wherein the backup search procedure is performed in parallel with searching for an address of the server means in a local system storage.